

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN QUEENSLAND.Three Months Ended 30th June, 1957.

Note: Throughout this bulletin, a large number of minor accidents reported to the Police, but not involving death or personal injury and doing vehicle damage worth less than £10, has been omitted.

The improvement in the road traffic accident position in Queensland as shown by figures for the first quarter of 1957 was not maintained in the second quarter, for statistics of road accidents for the three months ended 30th June, 1957, show that accidents, deaths and injuries during this period reached almost record numbers. Ninety persons were killed during the quarter, only 3 less than the highest for any quarter and 12 more than in the corresponding quarter of 1956, while 2,578 persons were injured, this figure being only 38 less than the previous highest total and 376 greater than in the June quarter of 1956. The number of accidents (6,836) has been exceeded in two quarters previously, but it was still 677 greater than in the same quarter of the previous year.

Persons killed during the quarter included 27 passengers, 23 motor vehicle drivers, 18 pedestrians, 14 motor cyclists, and 8 pedal cyclists. The numbers of motor vehicle driver and of pedal cyclist deaths both equalled the highest number ever recorded in any quarter for these types of road users, while the number of motor cyclist deaths was the greatest for almost two years. Compared with the June quarter of 1956, the number of motor cyclist and passenger deaths both showed an increase of 5, pedal cyclist and motor vehicle driver fatalities increased by 3 and 2 respectively, but there were 3 fewer pedestrian deaths.

Non-fatal injuries to passengers and pedal cyclists during the quarter were respectively 23 and 11 greater than the previous highest figures which were recorded in the 1956 December quarter. In the case of motor vehicle drivers, the figure for non-fatal injuries was the second highest on record, being exceeded only in the last quarter of 1956. Compared with the 1956 June quarter, the number of cases of non-fatal injury increased by 208 for passengers, 108 for motor vehicle drivers, 63 for motor cyclists, and 29 for pedal cyclists. As with fatalities, however, there were fewer cases of injury among pedestrians, the number being 32 less than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

For every person killed during the quarter, approximately 29 were injured. The highest ratio of deaths to injuries was among pedestrians where the proportion was 1 death to approximately 17 cases of injury, while the lowest ratio was among pedal cyclists, with 1 death to approximately 39 cases of injury. The approximate ratios for other road users were:- passengers, 1 to 36; motor cyclists, 1 to 28; and motor vehicle drivers, 1 to 27. Among persons of different ages, those over 60 years of age had the highest proportion of deaths to injuries, the ratio being 1 death to every 11 cases of injury, while for the age group 50-59 years the ratio was 1 death to 18 cases of injury. For children under 5 years the proportion was 1 death to 20 cases of injury. Other age groups with a higher than average proportion of deaths to injuries were 40-49 years and 5-6 years where the ratios were 1 to 23 and 1 to 27 respectively. All other age groups had a lower than average death to injury ratio, the lowest being for children aged 7-16 years where the ratio was 1 death to 59 cases of injury. For all types of road users, but particularly for pedestrians, the death to injury ratio was highest for persons over 40 years of age, and it was also very high for young children.

Drivers of motor vehicles (other than motor cycles) were held responsible for 4,380 (64 per cent.) of all accidents which occurred, accounting for 41 (46 per cent.) of the deaths and 1,257 (49 per cent.) of the cases of non-fatal injury. The most serious fault of drivers was "excessive speed" which caused 423 accidents, resulting in 10 deaths and 263 cases of injury. "Inattentive driving" was held to be the cause of 1,072 accidents, 8 deaths, and 258 cases of injury, while 6 deaths and 150 cases of injury resulted from 416 accidents which were attributed to "not giving right of way to other vehicle at intersection". "Not keeping to the left" was responsible for 5 deaths and 106 cases of injury in 270 accidents, and "intoxication" was held to be the cause of 2 deaths and 73 cases of injury in 149 accidents, while "overtaking improperly" caused 231 accidents which resulted in 2 deaths and 62 cases of injury.

Riders of motor cycles were held responsible for 375 (6 per cent.) of all accidents, which resulted in 12 (13 per cent.) of the deaths and 311 (12 per cent.) of the cases of injury. "Excessive speed" was held to be the cause of 4 deaths and 74 cases of injury in 68 accidents, while "inattentive riding" was responsible for 2 deaths and 82 cases of injury in 107 accidents. "Overtaking improperly" was the cause of 15 accidents which resulted in 2 deaths and 13 cases of injury.

Pedestrians were held to be at fault in 271 (4 per cent.) of all accidents which occurred, resulting in 13 (14 per cent.) of the deaths and 282 (11 per cent.) of the injuries. "Crossing the roadway without due care" was the most serious fault of pedestrians and was responsible for 113 accidents, 6 deaths, and 121 cases of injury.

Table 1 - Summary of Road Traffic Accidents in Queensland, 1952 to 1957.

| Year. | Three Months Ended - | | | | Twelve Months Ended June. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------|-------|---------------------------|
| | September. | December. | March. | June. | |
| Number of Accidents Reported. | | | | | |
| 1952-53 .. | 3,465 | 3,740 | 3,628 | 4,083 | 14,916 |
| 1953-54 .. | 4,070 | 4,452 | 4,393 | 4,960 | 17,875 |
| 1954-55 .. | 4,937 | 5,456 | 5,128 | 5,917 | 21,438 |
| 1955-56 .. | 6,410 | 6,884 | 6,104 | 6,159 | 25,557 |
| 1956-57 .. | 6,793 | 7,492 | 6,432 | 6,836 | 27,553 |
| Persons Killed. | | | | | |
| 1952-53 .. | 89 | 86 | 56 | 70 | 301 |
| 1953-54 .. | 75 | 75 | 58 | 70 | 278 |
| 1954-55 .. | 56 | 89 | 65 | 63 | 273 |
| 1955-56 .. | 78 | 71 | 71 | 78 | 298 |
| 1956-57 .. | 93 | 81 | 61 | 90 | 325 |
| Persons Injured. | | | | | |
| 1952-53 .. | 1,780 | 1,862 | 1,612 | 1,898 | 7,152 |
| 1953-54 .. | 1,904 | 2,154 | 1,834 | 2,041 | 7,933 |
| 1954-55 .. | 2,001 | 2,271 | 2,040 | 2,109 | 8,421 |
| 1955-56 .. | 2,217 | 2,515 | 2,236 | 2,202 | 9,170 |
| 1956-57 .. | 2,324 | 2,616 | 2,282 | 2,578 | 9,800 |

Table 2 - Types of Road Users Killed or Injured in Queensland.

| Period. | Motor Drivers. | Motor Cyclists. | Pedal Cyclists. | Passengers. ^a | Pedes- trians. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Persons Killed. | | | | | | |
| <u>Year Ended 30th June -</u> | | | | | | |
| 1953 | 59 | 51 | 17 | 107 | 67 | 301 |
| 1954 | 44 | 65 | 20 | 87 | 62 | 278 |
| 1955 | 52 | 55 | 17 | 80 | 69 | 273 |
| 1956 | 61 | 47 | 15 | 93 | 82 | 298 |
| 1957 | 75 | 44 | 21 | 107 | 78 | 325 |
| <u>Quarter Ended -</u> | | | | | | |
| June, 1956 .. | 21 | 9 | 5 | 22 | 21 | 78 |
| September, 1956 .. | 22 | 10 | 5 | 30 | 26 | 93 |
| December, 1956 .. | 14 | 13 | 2 | 29 | 23 | 81 |
| March, 1957 .. | 16 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 11 | 61 |
| June, 1957 .. | 23 | 14 | 8 | 27 | 18 | 90 |
| Persons Injured. | | | | | | |
| <u>Year Ended 30th June -</u> | | | | | | |
| 1953 | 1,181 | 1,591 | 949 | 2,481 | 950 | 7,152 |
| 1954 | 1,464 | 1,671 | 1,023 | 2,704 | 1,071 | 7,933 |
| 1955 | 1,691 | 1,596 | 997 | 3,019 | 1,118 | 8,421 |
| 1956 | 2,049 | 1,498 | 1,127 | 3,251 | 1,245 | 9,170 |
| 1957 | 2,334 | 1,635 | 1,175 | 3,518 | 1,138 | 9,800 |
| <u>Quarter Ended -</u> | | | | | | |
| June, 1956 .. | 502 | 331 | 283 | 741 | 345 | 2,202 |
| September, 1956 .. | 550 | 377 | 291 | 825 | 281 | 2,324 |
| December, 1956 .. | 656 | 461 | 301 | 926 | 272 | 2,616 |
| March, 1957 .. | 518 | 403 | 271 | 818 | 272 | 2,282 |
| June, 1957 .. | 610 | 394 | 312 | 949 | 313 | 2,578 |

^a Including tram drivers, riders of animals, drivers of animal-drawn vehicles, &c.

Table 3 - Ages of Persons Killed or Injured in Road Traffic Accidents,
Three Months Ended 30th June, 1957.

| Category. | Killed or Injured. | Under 5. | 5-6. | 7-16. | 17-20. | 21-29. | 30-39. | 40-49. | 50-59. | 60 and Over. | Not Stated. | Total. |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| Motor Drivers | Killed | - | - | - | 1 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | - | 23 |
| | Injured | - | - | 1 | 79 | 178 | 146 | 97 | 65 | 36 | 8 | 610 |
| Motor Cyclists | Killed | - | - | - | 6 | 6 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 14 |
| | Injured | - | - | 2 | 193 | 131 | 36 | 20 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 394 |
| Pedal Cyclists | Killed | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 8 |
| | Injured | - | 1 | 175 | 34 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 19 | 4 | 312 |
| Passengers | Killed | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | - | 6 | - | 26 |
| | Injured | 37 | 30 | 124 | 186 | 194 | 108 | 91 | 78 | 72 | 24 | 944 |
| Pedestrians | Killed | - | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 6 | - | 18 |
| | Injured | 23 | 23 | 52 | 7 | 18 | 34 | 29 | 40 | 68 | 19 | 313 |
| Others | Killed | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Injured | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Total | Killed | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 18 | - | 90 |
| | Injured | 60 | 54 | 355 | 499 | 544 | 348 | 258 | 202 | 200 | 58 | 1,578 |

Table 4 - Causes of Road Traffic Accidents in Queensland,
Three Months Ended 30th June, 1957.

| Cause. | Accidents Reported. | Persons Killed. | Persons Injured. | Proportion of Total Accidents Reported. |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| | No. | No. | No. | Per Cent. |
| Faults of Drivers of Motor Vehicles, other than Cycles | 4,380 | 41 | 1,257 | 64.1 |
| (Excessive speed) | (423) | (10) | (263) | |
| (Inattentive driving) | (1,072) | (8) | (258) | |
| (Not giving right of way to other vehicle at intersection) | (416) | (6) | (150) | |
| (Not keeping to the left) | (270) | (5) | (106) | |
| (Intoxicated) | (149) | (2) | (73) | |
| (Overtaking improperly) | (231) | (2) | (62) | |
| (All other faults) | (1,819) | (8) | (345) | |
| Faults of Riders of Motor Cycles | 375 | 12 | 311 | 5.5 |
| (Excessive speed) | (68) | (4) | (74) | |
| (Inattentive riding) | (107) | (2) | (82) | |
| (Overtaking improperly) | (15) | (2) | (13) | |
| (All other faults) | (185) | (4) | (142) | |
| Faults of Pedal Cyclists | 191 | 6 | 191 | 2.8 |
| Faults of Drivers of Animal-drawn Vehicles and Riders of Animals | - | - | - | - |
| Faults of Pedestrians | 271 | 13 | 282 | 4.0 |
| Faults of Passengers | 43 | 2 | 42 | 0.6 |
| Motor Vehicle Defects | 387 | 8 | 152 | 5.7 |
| Motor Cycle Defects | 24 | 1 | 23 | 0.3 |
| Pedal Cycle Defects | 13 | - | 13 | 0.2 |
| Animal-drawn Vehicle Defects | - | - | - | - |
| Caused by Animals | 395 | 1 | 40 | 5.8 |
| Caused by Road Conditions | 232 | - | 102 | 3.4 |
| Caused by Weather | 124 | 5 | 54 | 1.8 |
| Caused by Parties Not Involved in Accident | 364 | 1 | 104 | 5.3 |
| Trams Responsible | 37 | - | 7 | 0.5 |
| Other Causes | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 6,836 | 90 | 2,578 | 100.0 |